

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	USSR (Astrakhan Oblast)	REPORT NO.	[redacted]
SUBJECT	Anti-Regime Activity in Astrakhan	DATE DISTR.	30 April 1953
	25X1A	NO. OF PAGES	1
DATE OF INFO.	[redacted]	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED	[redacted]	REFERENCES	

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SOURCE:

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1. Source stated that every year, about two months prior to the elections in the fall and after the candidates had been announced, almost everyone in Astrakhan stayed off the streets during the hours of darkness. This was because a band of so-called bandits, known throughout the Soviet Union as the Chernaya Koshka (Black Cat), would roam the streets of the city in order to rob, beat, and, on occasion, kill the candidates, Communist Party members, and the better dressed citizens. Immediately after the election, this organization disappeared or disbanded until the next election, at which time this harassing action would recommence.

2. Source said that this organization operates in the same manner simultaneously in every city throughout the USSR and that everyone in the Soviet Union is familiar with the words Chernaya Koshka and the action of these bands. No one knows who the members of this organization are, and the extreme efforts of the MVD and MGB to eliminate, or even curb, this organization have been to no avail; its operations are always resumed. Those individuals mentioned above are the principal targets of this group, but every-

3. [redacted] at one time he was waylaid by the Chernaya Koshka. After they had knocked him down, however, they flashed a light in his face, recognized him, helped him to his feet, brushed him off, apologized for their mistake, and departed. [redacted] thought [redacted] had recognized a few of the men, but he could not state so definitely. [redacted] another incident, when this group stopped a female secretary of the ObKomPartiya in Astrakhan who was driving a car and severely beat her.

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